



THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

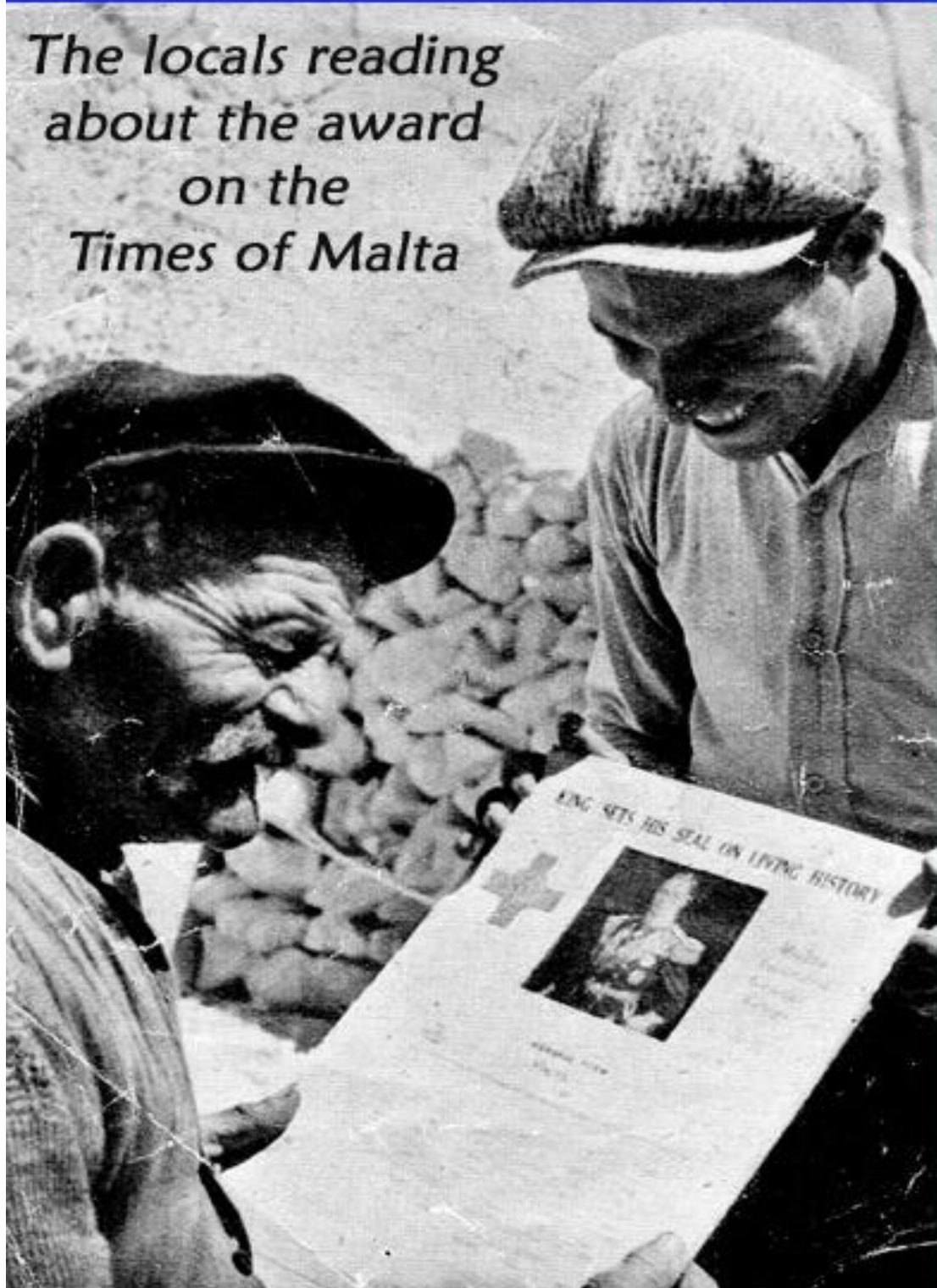
THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

EDITOR - FRANK L SCICLUNA

Contact: honconsul@live.com.au



*The locals reading
about the award
on the
Times of Malta*



To honour
her brave
people
I award
the George
Cross to the
Island
Fortress of
Malta to
bear
witness
to a
heroism
and
devotion
that will
long
be famous
in history.

King
George VI
April 15th
1942

**1942: Malta awarded
George Cross medal for bravery**



A child's war time memories of life on Malta, the George Cross Island

Major and Mrs H.W. Staples, and their four children - Pat, Edwin, Margaret and Daphne outside their home, Dragona, shortly after their arrival on Malta in January 1939. by Margaret Hutchinson (nee Staples.)



My father's job

When my father Major H. W. Staples R.E. (known as Sam) left the army in 1949, a letter came from the War Office saying, "I am commanded by the Army Council to express to you their thanks for the valuable services which you have rendered in the service of your country at a time of grave national security." This made me realise that my father played an important part on the island of Malta. He was the Deputy Commander of the Royal Engineers for the southern part of the island covering the main harbours and aerodromes.

It is easy to forget just how close Malta came to defeat between 1940 and 1942. I arrived in Malta with my parents, two brothers and two sisters in January 1939. At nine years of age it seemed like a new adventure — little did I realise that it would be six years before I left the island in March 1945.

Island at War - My memories are of fear and starvation but also of love for the people and the island. At the beginning when the Italians declared war life was

difficult, but when the Germans started bombing only sixty miles away from Sicily, it was horrendous. It became one of the most heavily bombed places in the world.

We all slept in the shelters and spent most of the day there too. As convoys fought to get through with supplies, they were pounded by the enemy. Without the RAF fighter pilots and anti-aircraft personnel, Malta could easily have succumbed.

Scarcity of food - I remember my father telling me that there were only 10 days' supplies left. As our ration at the time was very limited — only one slice of bread each per day — leaving the table hungry wasn't unusual. My poor mother struggled to feed us — I remember she became painfully thin, and began to look old. My father recorded he lost 8" off his waist and felt quite fit except when walking quickly his heart beat sounded like a going in his ears.

I used to queue at the Victory kitchen in Floriana for our one meal a day. Divided between seven of us, it was pathetic; maybe enough for one and a half people — but I must say, it was always very tasty. My mother learnt to serve it on small plates. One day my father acquired a sack of oatmeal riddled with weevils. My mother asked me to try and clean it — an impossible task — so it was cooked with the weevils! My sisters and I played "loves me, loves me not" with weevils rather than fruit stones.

I went to the market in Valletta with my mother — most of the stallholders had left but there were still a few there. We came home with a fish that had cost a pound — a lot of money in those days. I think that it was that day that the Opera house was bombed and we picked our way through the rubble. Running from one shelter to the next became the norm.

Operation 'Pedestal' - Operation Pedestal was launched to help Malta when we were at our lowest ebb. Of the fourteen ships that sailed nine were sunk and in the early hours of August 15th the freighter "Ohio" limped into the Grand Harbour lashed to the side of other vessels. We children used to rush to the bastions to cheer and wave them in. When supplies arrived only to be destroyed during their unloading in the grand

Harbour, the island's morale was severely hit. Both my brothers, Pat and Edwin were detailed to go to the harbour wearing their Boy Scout uniforms, to help supervise unloading and stop pilfering.

A terrifying experience.

One day returning from Chiswick House School in Windsor Terrace, Sliema, my sister Daphne and I arrived at the quay and as the ferries had stopped running we had to rely on the dghaisa — a boat rather like a gondola — to take us across to Valetta. There had been raids all morning and we were desperate to get home. Our lessons had been in the shelter and as it was about half past four and we hadn't eaten a thing since breakfast we were feeling terribly hungry. Soon the little boat was full of Maltese women and children gesticulating wildly and a Maltese soldier of the K.O.M.R. was giving a full account of the morning's bombings to one of the boatmen.

Soon we were on our way, gliding over the water — but alas! We had just reached the middle of the harbour when the siren wailed out mournfully. My heart was beating wildly and I prayed that the red flag would not be hoisted until we reached the other side. This was raised above the Castile when the raid was directly overhead. One woman began screaming hysterically and urged the boatmen to go faster, faster! Beads of perspiration poured from them as they pulled at the oars and we watched, waited and prayed.

Suddenly the red flag was hoisted and we realised our prayers had been in vain. One old lady threw herself on the bottom of the boat sobbing and begging the saints to take care of us all. My sister turned dreadfully pale and I thought she was going to faint as she usually did in such circumstances. She clutched at my hand and we gazed above scanning the blue skies for the approach of the enemy. A dozen or so planes passed over and we presumed they had already dropped their bombs on the other side of the island. Our guns opened up and the planes made a speedy exit. "Raiders passed," blared out and as we reached Valetta we all breathed a prayer of thanks.

Slowly we made our way up Great Siege Hill homeward bound. A few minutes passed and the siren wailed again. As there were no shelters close by we made our way to a small gap in the bastion and huddled in. A sailor and two Maltese soldiers joined us and after a while the sailor assured us the raid was practically over and we could continue our journey. We thanked him and began to run up the hill.

Before we had gone 200 yards the guns began to bark and I could see three planes coming in our direction. I screamed "Run Daphne — make for that wall" and we ran as fast as our legs could carry us. There was a loud whistle and then WHAM. The ground shook violently and when I had the courage to stand up the air was full of smoke and dust. Daphne was lying in a clump of daisies quite a few feet ahead of me where the blast had lifted her. I thought she might have been hurt but was assured it was only fright when she stood up and started screaming.

An English soldier popped his head out of a slit trench, ran over and picked her up in his arms and shouting for me to follow, ran back to the slit trench. I felt terribly giddy and slowly made my way to the shelter. The raid was over 15 minutes later and at last we resumed our journey undisturbed.

A few days later my father told me that two Maltese soldiers had been killed by enemy action less than 100 yards from the spot we had occupied. I shall never forget that day as long as I live.

Most British families left the island early on, some going to South Africa for the duration, others going around South Africa back to the U.K. When my father asked my mother to leave before the bombing started, she said, "No — we stay together", and so it was, and she wouldn't be moved. One day I was out in the open during a raid with my mother and sister Daphne, and I remember shouting, "Dear God, I'm too young to die."



**The best Maltese Newsletter I ever read. Thank you
Frank keep up the good work and God bless you.
Joe Vella, Adelaide, Australia**



2 million tourists with an expenditure of €1.7 billion in 2016 – NSO www.independent.com.mt |

In 2016, inbound tourist arrivals increased by 10.2%, reaching close to 2 million tourist arrivals (1,965,928) reaching a total expenditure of €1.7 billion, a 4.3% increase, according to the 2017 edition of the NSO's

Regional Statistics.

Total nights spent by tourists to Malta reached nearly 15 million, an increase of 5.7% over 2015. Gozo and Comino accounted for 7.4% of the figure, and registered the highest growth across regions exceeding 1.1 million nights, increasing by 10.8%. Single centre destination inbound tourism, which refers to those individuals who remain at one single accommodation, accounted for the majority of the trips, 94.7%, the rest being twin centre destination trips.

The majority of inbound tourists came from EU Member States (86.2%), with the strongest market being the UK. Most were aged between 25 and 44 (35.1%). More than three-fourths of single centre trips to Malta region were done for holiday purposes amounting to nearly 1.4 million. First-time tourists accounted for 70.3% while the remainder were repeat tourists.

In 2016, average length of stay stood at 7.3 nights, down by 0.3 of a night when compared to previous year. Top five places where single centre inbound tourists to Malta region stayed longest included St Julian's (25%), St Paul's Bay/Buġibba/Qawra (23%), Sliema (17%), Mellieħa (14%), and Valletta (3%).

When compared to 2015, non-package trips increased by 21.5%, implying that three trips out of five were non-package; the package trips dropped by 3.9% when compared to 2015. Slightly less than half of the single centre inbound tourists, 48.8%, travelled by other airlines, 48.6% by low-cost airlines. Over the past five consecutive years travelling by low-cost airlines grew at a faster pace than travelling by other airlines.

In 2016, travelling by low-cost airlines increased by 26.7% while travelling by other airlines declined by 3.0% when compared to 2015. In 2016, public transport (bus at 29%) was the most popular form of transport used by single centre inbound tourists to Malta region. This was followed by the taxi (18%) and coach (13%).

A SLIGHT EARTHQUAKE IN MALTA

Rabat Franciscan Collegiate Church (Ta'Giezu) collapsed.



Luckily, no one was inside the church when the ceiling collapsed. (Photo: James

Ceiling of 'Ta' Ġiezu' church in Rabat collapses

The Franciscan friars and residents of Rabat this morning (23 August 2017) woke up to a horrible sight, when the priests delivered the news that the ceiling of their beloved Ta' Ġiezu church had caved in, with the debris destroying the altar.

Some had tears in their eyes as they gathered outside the centuries old church, and Archbishop Charles J Scicluna also appeared emotional as he was shown around. People on the

scene said two old wooden beams appeared to have given way. The marble altar table, benches and light fittings were considerably damaged as tons of debris rained down.

Ta' Giezu Church was built in 1500 and enlarged in 1757. The first Grand Master L'Isle Adam lived in the adjoining convent when the Knights came to Malta in 1530. The Franciscan Fathers this morning thanked all those who had offered to help and announced the setting up of an emergency fund. Donations may be made to Bank of Valletta account 40020868884.

IL-MOSTIN JICCELEBRAW BIL-KBIR jikteb Victor B Caruana



Ll-Istatwa artistika ta' Santa Marija diehla fir-Rotunda

Nhar it-Tlieta 15 ta' Awwissu 2017 l-Mostin ccelebraw il-Festa ta' Santa Marija. Ic-celebrazzjonijiet bdew fid-29 ta' Awwissu bil-hrug tal-Istatwa Titular minn nicca. L-ghada l-Hadd 30 ta' Lulju kien il-bidu tal-Kwindicina. Minn dak in-nhar kien hemm funzjonijiet religjuzi kbar kull filghaxija fir-Rotunda. Sar pellegrinagg bir-roti madwar it-toroq tal-Mosta bl-Arcipriet Dun Sebastjan Caruana fost ic-ciklisti. Dun Sebastjan jdur mal-Mosta kollha li illum kibret hafna, permezz tar-racing bike, biex iqarben il-morda fi djarhom.

Sar pellegrinagg bir-Ruzarju madwar it-toroq tal-Mosta. Saru zewg kuncerti kbar fi Pjazza Rotunda tard filghaxija ghal frisk miz-zewg Socjetajiet Filarmonici, Nicolo' Isouard u Santa Marija. Dawn ghamlu wkoll diversi marci brijjuzi madwar it-toroq tal-Mosta. Kien hemm wirjiet kbar tal-loghob tan-nar kemm tal-ajru kif ukoll tal-art miz-zewg Socjetajiet Piroteknici Mostin, is-Soc. Piroteknika 15 ta' Awwissu u s-Socjeta Piroteknika Santa Marija.

Il-qofol tal-Festa kien it-Tlieta 15 ta' Awwissu nhar Santa Marija. Filghodu saret Quddiesa Pontifikali kkoncelebrata minn Nunzu Appostoliku gdid tal-Vatikan ghal Malta. Dan huwa l-E.T. Mons Alessandro D' Errico, Arcisqof Titolari ta' Carini. Huwa ghandu 68 sena u huwa minn

Napli. Din kienet l-ewwel funzjoni religjuza tieghu f' Malta billi huwa wasal Malta fl-4 ta' Awwissu li ghadda. Huwa inghata din il-kariga mill-Papa Francisku f' April li ghadda. Flimkien mieghu kkoncelebra l-E.T. L-Arcisqof Mons. Charles Scicluna li ghamel il-panigierku. Kkoncelebraw magghom il-W.R. Arcipriet u l-kleru tal-Mosta. Huwa nghata merhba kbira mill-poplu Mosti. Wara l-quddiesa huwa rringrazzja lill-kulhadd u qal li kien ta' unur kbir ghalih illi qaddes f'dan it-tempju sabih u majestuz tar-Rotunda.

Filghaxija saret il-purcissjoni tant mistennija bl-Istatwa Titulari, li tmexxiet mis-Sacerdot Novell Dun Sinclair Bugeja, li attendew ghalih eluf kbar ta' nies minn kull rokna ta' Malta u hafna turisti. **Riratt ta' Victor B Caruana (Mosta)**

In Loving Memory of



Sr. Leonide Magro FCJ

SISTER LEONIDE MAGRO

Born in Qrendi: 2nd October 1932

died in Adelaide: 11th August 2017

Sister Leonide Magro was one of the pioneer nuns in Adelaide.

She was a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus founded by the Venerable Mother Margherita in Gozo. Sr Leonide was born in Qrendi and spent most of her life in Adelaide with the congregation and was well loved by the her fellow sisters, the members of Christ the King Parish, Lockleys and by the Maltese community of Adelaide.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Sr. Vittoriana Debattista, the Regional Superior of the Congregation and the whole community and her family.

The editor

A sense of jubilation spread as the convoy entered Grand Harbour'

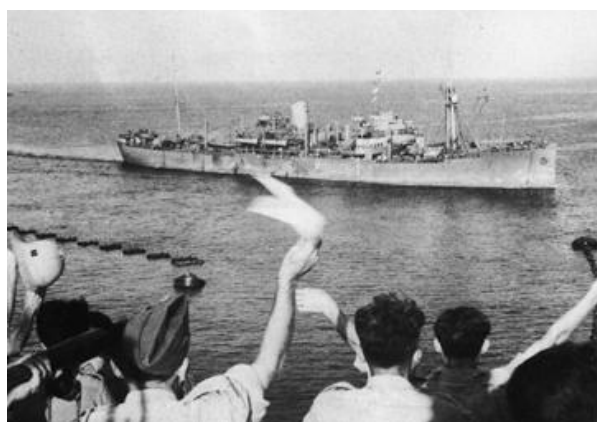


War veteran recalls SS Ohio's arrival in Malta

Major Henry Gatt, 94, spoke to the Times of Malta before the 75th anniversary of the convoy. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli

For 94-year-old war veteran Major Henry Gatt, the day the SS *Ohio* tanker and its escort made it to Malta, August 15, 1942, reminds him of one thing – the widespread jubilation among the Maltese. The arrival of merchant ship MV Port Chalmers on August 13, 1942, was welcomed by servicemen and civilians.

Speaking to this newspaper ahead of the 75th anniversary of Operation Pedestal, which brought to Malta the Santa Marija convoy and is being celebrated today, Mr Gatt recalled the sense of jubilation that quickly spread throughout the island when the convoy, barely making it, entered the Grand Harbour.



Although he was on duty working anti-aircraft searchlights that day and not present to watch the convoy arrive, Mr Gatt said he had vivid recollections of the sense of joy and relief that the vessels with supplies brought with them.

The convoy's arrival is considered to be a pivotal moment in World War II. It saved Malta by delivering food and other essential supplies when the island was under heavy attack from the enemy.

"That was a big joy for everybody, with people from all walks of life celebrating. The re-enactment was wonderful, but these events do not have the same effect on me as on others, since I lived through the real thing"

"I was in the Rabat area at the time... but the news spread very quickly," Mr Gatt explained. He added that before the battered SS *Ohio* made it to Malta, morale was down and most people were hungry and afraid.

Food shortages had become a serious problem, and while people tried to get on with their daily lives, living off rations from the Victory Kitchen was no easy feat, Mr Gatt recalled.

"People were living off soup, with minestra being the order of the day on most days. Maybe there were times when spaghetti was

Asked about the one memory from the war that has stuck with him, Mr Gatt said it was the way the people tried to continue leading normal lives despite the hardships they faced on a daily basis.



The merchant ship MV *Dorset* came under attack on August 13, 1942. "People went to work every day and they tried to maintain a certain sense of normality despite what was going on around them."

And while many rush to attend commemorations and other events to celebrate the anniversary, Mr Gatt said that while he enjoyed attending such events, they did not carry the same level of intrigue for him as they did for those who had not lived through those times.

"I attended a re-enactment on Saturday, and while it was a wonderful experience, these events do not have the same effect on me as they do on other people, since I lived through the real thing. "I saw it first-hand and I know what it was really like," he said.

JOIN THE MALTESE AMERICAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY FOR 'IL-FESTA TAL-VITORJA'

Our 9th annual Festa Il-Vitorja will be held on Setemper 10th at 11:00 am at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Lunch will be served at the Club afterwards. For more information on menu and ticket availability, please see the information below!



9th ANNUAL FESTA IL-VITORJA SUNDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2017

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc.
1832 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48216
Celebrating 77 Years in Corktown

For more information call 313.961.8393, Find us on facebook or
Email (maltese_american_benevolent_soc@yahoo.com)

Come Celebrate Our 9th Gathering for the
Maltese Festa Il-Vitorja – Our Lady of Victory
Celebrating the Birth of Our Lady, the Mother of God
and the Victory of World War II –
The Great Siege of 1565

Festivities will begin with a Mass Celebration at
Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church
1050 Porter Street, Detroit, Michigan 48226
at 11:00 a.m.

Our Statue of Mary will be Processed into Church and
Receive its Annual Blessing

11 a.m. Mass at Most Holy Trinity Church

1:30 p.m. Food Available at Club

TRADITIONAL MALTESE FOOD FOR SALE

\$10 – Rabbit Stew or Baked Macaroni
\$5 – Choice of 2 Hot Dogs & Potato Chips
OR 1 Hamburger & Potato Chips
\$1 – Desserts

**STOP BY THE CLUB IN AUGUST
TO PURCHASE YOUR FOOD TICKETS IN ADVANCE
AND TO GUARANTEE YOUR MALTESE FOOD
SELECTION * LIMITED EXTRA MALTESE FOOD WILL
BE MADE**

50/50 RAFFLE TICKETS & PRIZES

Tickets – \$1 Each or 6 for \$5
Cash Prizes – 1st, 2nd & 3rd

**TELL ALL YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS!
COME AND JOIN IN A DAY OF FUN WITH THE
ENTIRE FAMILY!!!**



**- Opportunities Available for
Sponsorship & Advertising –
Contact the Club for More Information**

The Club will Open Directly after Mass

Food will be Available for Purchase at the Club between
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Vendor Tables are Available for Sponsorship
by Members & Guests
Limited 6-8 Foot Table Spaces Available
\$25 for Members
\$40 for Non-Members**

CALL OR EMAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where : Most Holy Trinity; Most Holy Trinity Church, Porter Street, Detroit, MI, United States

When: Sunday, September 10, 2017 11:00 AM — 9:00 PM EDT

Contact: Maltese American Benevolent Society; mabsi.detroit@gmail.com



IL-FESTA TAL-VITORJA F'SYDNEY - AWSTRALJA

Il-Fathers Maltin jixtiequ jistiednu lill-Kommunita' Maltija
ghall-festa tradizzjonali tal-Vitorja
nhar il-Hadd 10 ta' Settembru 2017

fis-2.30 pm tibda l-purcissjoni fejn jinghad ir-Ruzarju,
wara tibda l-quddiesa koncelebrata

fil-Kattidral ta' St Mary's, College Street Sydney, NSW.

Il-Predikatur, ser ikun Rev Fr Charles Sultana PP ta' San Lawrenz, Ghawdex.

Dawk il-familji li għandom xi tfal jew zghazagh li jkunu jrridu jilbsu
kostum Malti jew tal-precett,

biex jimxu fil-purcissjoni fil-Kattidral,

għandom ic-cemplu lil Antoinette Mascari 9899 1938.

Grazzi lil kull min dejjem attenda għal din il-festa.

Fr Tarcisio M Micallef mssp - Chaplain for the Maltese Community
in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

WHAT TYPE OF CHURCH?



The church is not the temple built of lifeless bricks. St Paul said the everyone of us is a temple of God, and St. Peter calls us 'living stones'. How to picture a living stone? The Prophet Ezekiel speaks about dry bones that took on flesh and breath. It is God, who having made us lifeless stones, breaths, so we become 'living stones'. Don't be just disciples of Christ! Be also apostles of Christ! Let us build together the Church of Christ

in our Diocese Tirana-Durres. Let us thank God for the miracles He did for our Diocese

these last twenty five years. But our journey has not finished: we have to go on. We should not be afraid to make the necessary reforms, we should not be afraid to change the structures. But let us not forget that the most important and the most difficult work is not the changing of the structures, but the changing of our hearts. Reforms alone are not able to change the hearts. Only faith and love can change the hearts. To use a phrase of Pope

Francis: "Let us build bridges, not walls." Let us build together a church modeled after Pope Francis' proposal: a church, who serves, close to the people, especially the poor, the abandoned, the marginalized because of their skin color or because of their social status, victims of injustice, a church, who becomes the voice of those who have no voice!

Therefore, let us have our smile ready for those who are looking for our solidarity, let us reach out to them, who were denied help, let us widen our hearts, so that the poor and the marginalized find shelter there.

Mgr. George Frendo O.P. (from his homily during the mass of his nomination AS Archbishop OF Tirana, Albania 3 December 2016) **As Archbishop Of Tirana, Albania – 3 Rd December 2016)**



Annette Xiberras

Annette Xiberras has worked in the field of Aboriginal cultural heritage for more than 25 years when she was part of the first group of cultural heritage officers employed by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria in 1988. Annette has held the Victorian Aboriginal community -elected chair of the Victorian Traditional Owners Land Justice Group for the past 6 years. Her long career in cultural heritage has seen her gain numerous

formal qualifications in Cultural Heritage Management, and has allowed her to work with some of Australia's leading archaeological experts.

As a Wurundjeri Elder, she has unique connections with both government and Aboriginal communities. She combines this with real-world business and commercial experience. Annette's expertise in Aboriginal cultural heritage is reflected in the honorary positions she holds:

Co-chair, Victorian Traditional Owners Land Justice Group Chair, City of Melbourne Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee

Chair, City of Yarra Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, Committee Member for the Department of Sustainability and Environment State Round Table, Committee Member, Zoos Victoria, Committee Member for the National Trust, Member of Wurundjeri Tribe Committee of Management

Board of Directors for Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative.

Annette has also published widely including contributing to a monograph for the Australian Archaeological Association and also for the James Cook 1 Monograph.

August 17, 2015 by Sarah Carabott



Humble kusksu wins Aussie cup

The former Consul General for Malta in Melbourne Victor Grech (right) with winners Luke Portelli, Carmen Portelli and Annie Portelli. At the back, Nisġa president Sandra Mooney and vice president Marlene Scicluna. Photo: Innovating Visuals

A simple, traditional bowl of kusksu bil-ġbejniet goes down so well – especially on a rainy day – that it is still a favourite among the Maltese in Australia.

In fact, a menu of broad bean soup with fresh cheese followed by prickly pear ice cream yesterday won the fifth edition of the Maltese Cook Off held in Melbourne, organised by the community group called nisġa.

The group wants to pass on the Maltese identity to Australian youth through cultural events such as the cook-off, which was launched after the parents of Sandra Mooney's friends gradually passed away, taking with them their secret recipes. Ms Mooney, the president of the non-profit association, realised that the younger generations were losing the Maltese palate.

Organised for the first time in 2011, the event has been held annually since then by popular demand. It is meant to help contestants pass on Maltese recipes in a fun way.

Organised for the first time in 2011, the event has been held annually since then by popular demand. It is meant to help contestants pass on Maltese recipes in a fun way

This year, it brought together eight teams of three people, in some cases three generations from one family, who battled it out by cooking Maltese traditional food.

With their kusksu and ice cream, Carmen Portelli and her two children, Luke and Annie, impressed the panel of judges, composed of cookbook author Karmen Tedesco, head chef Anton Camilleri and former MasterChef contestant Tregan Spiteri.



Mouth-watering kusksu bil-ġbejniet and ġelat tal-bajtar tax-xewk were the winning dishes of this year's Maltese cook-off held in Melbourne. Photo: Tregan Spiteri

Runners-up Emmanuel Cilia, his brother Anthony and nephew Matthew prepared a dish of rabbit and baked rice. They were followed closely by Mill-Kċina ta' Parkville – a group made up of Edwina Mallia, Rosemary Attard and Antonia Camilleri, with their bread with bigilla and baked swordfish, which also won the

People's Choice Award.

The sold-out event sees a colourful assortment of dishes every year, and last year's winning combination was brunġiel mimli (stuffed eggplant) and a Kinnie cake. This year, the cook-off brought together 250 people who tucked in to Maltese food while Nicky Bomba's band Bustamento and veteran singer Nicol Caruana belted out some Maltese favourites

BALLATA TAL-MALTIN TA' NEW CALEDONIA in Adelaide

Nhar il-Hadd, 10 ta' Settembru 2017, Patri Grabiell Micallef, il-Kappillan tal-Maltin ta' SA, ser jqaddes il-Quddiesa tat-Tieni Hadd tax-xahar. Din il-Quddiesa tfakkar il-COMMEMORATION DAY li fiha niftakru f'dawk li xerrdu demmhom biex illum qeghdin ngawdu il-pa'i, s-sliem u r-rizq ta' zmienijetna. Il-Quddiesa tibda fit-3.00 p.m. fil-Knisja ta' Kristu Re, f'Lockleys. Wara fis-sala jkollna xi refreshments u l-Father ser isemmalna **IL-BALLATA TAL-MALTIN TA' NEW CALEDONIA**, li f'din is-sena f'din is-sena jaghlqu mitt sena li minn wara sitt xhur tbatija u taqtiq il-qalb, fl-ahhar \barkaw fil-port ta' Sydney. Hija storja li taqsamlek qalbek. Ejjew u gibu l-hbieb maghkom halli tisimghu din il-grajja ta hutna l-Maltin li ghaddew minn tant ghejtijet biex flahhar irnexxielhom jakkwistaw dak li tant kienu xtaqu. li minn wara sitt xhur tbatija u taghti il-qalb, fl-ahhar Ara pagna 7

IL-FESTA TAL-VITORJA FIS-SOUTH AUSTRALIA

IL-MALTESE CHAPLAINCY FESTIVITIES GROUP jixtieq javza li l-Festa tal-Vitorja ser tinzamm, bhal fis-snin l-imghoddija, gewwa Lockleys.

Il-Programm huwa dan:

Il-Gimgha, 29 ta' Settembru - Fis-7.00 tibda l-Purcissjoni bl-istatwa artistika ta' Marija Bambina mill-Gnien tas-Sorijiet Frangiskani. Takkumpanja l-MALTESE QUEEN OF VICTORIES BAND. Kif naslu fil-Knisja jsir t-TRIBUT LILL-MADONNA mill-Ghaqdiet kollha Maltin u wara tinghata l-Barka Sagramentali. Refreshments fis-Sala. Dawk kollha prezenti huma mistiedna.

Is-Sibt, 30 ta' Settembru - SOCIAL EVENING fis-Sala tal-Parrocchia ta' Kristu Re, f'Lockleys. Ikla ta' 4 Korsi u Xorb mill-Bar. Iferrahna bil-kant tieghu DJ ERIC. Il-Prezz huwa biss ta' \$40. Ejjew u gibu l-hbieb maghkom. Ahsbu minn kmieni ghax il-postijiet huma limitati.



Fr Charles Sultana

Il-Hadd, 1 t'Ottubru - Fil-11.00 a.m. Quddiesa Solenni Kantata kkoncelebrata. Imexxi l-Kappillan tal-Parrocchia ta' P. Gabriel Micallef u l-Kappillan tal-Parrocchia San Lawrenz, Ghawdex – Fr Charles M. Sultana. Jiehu sehem ic-CHAPLAINCY CHOIR. Tinghata l-Barka Sagramentali. Wara jkollna l-purcissjoni fuq l-art tal-Knisja, akkumpanjata mill-MALTESE QUEEN OF VICTORIES BAND. Wara jkun hemm serata ta' divertiment fis-Sala Parrokkjali.

It-Tnejn, 2 t'Ottubru - Kulhadd huwa mistieden biex jigi jaghtina daqqa t'id biex nigbru l-armar u nnadfu. Wara jkollna quddiesa ta' Ringrazzjament minn Fr Gabriel u nispihcaw bil-B.B.Q.



MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

The magazine that builds bridges between
Maltese all over the world

Every Edition is Precious

READ IT

ANYTIME, ANYWHERE, ANYHOW
PACKED WITH NEWS
INFORMATION, HISTORY
CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Bocelli, Calleja take anniversary concert to new highs



Andrea Bocelli and Joseph Calleja

evening. It was yet another traditional event, sometime one would admit was turning repetitive: Malta's tenor and now a Cavaliere Joseph Calleja emulates the Pavarotti creation: of combining opera singing with contemporary productions.

Yet, this evening under the stars was different. It roped in one great and unique voice, with the presence of other stars. Listening to Andrea Bocelli live is an experience that cannot be matched by a television screening or accidentally snooping on his voice.

His stardom is in perfect synch with his matchless talent as his warm voice reached new crescendos and resonated endlessly in the Fosos square in Floriana. It was difficult to believe that the other week he had been fighting a bronchitis and had to cancel concerts. Calleja's contribution was ever more incisive - there is something remarkably complete in his execution. It is as if a fine wine had come of age - the confidence that he exudes is one of a mega marvel. The stunning Gillian Zammit was also exceptional as she delivered her solo interpretations and also with Bocelli with Maltese young voices echoing from the stage.

Sir Bryn Terfel, the bass baritone was also an important factor to the night's success, adding some colour to the musical interpretations with his humour and personality. The other singers were perhaps less of an influence for the enthusiastic public. Though Destiny, the young Maltese Junior Eurovision winner still struck a chord with the Maltese audience. And not to be forgotten, the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, which presented a flawless musical performance.



nicky bomba - Maltese/Australian

Nicholas Caruana aka Nicky Bomba (born 7 September 1963, Malta) is an Australian musician and singer. He is the frontman of his band Bomba as well as the former drummer and percussionist of John Butler Trio. He has also performed alongside other acts and is a solo artist himself.

Biography. Bomba's family migrated to Australia late 1964. He started learning drums when he was six years old.

In 1978 he formed a cover band with his brother, Michael, called Fugitive Flight. In 1982, Fugitive Flight became a band playing original music with vocalist, Peter Miller, bassist, Steve Morgan (later of Icehouse), and guitarist, Peter Weeda. They soon changed their name to Guided Tour. After a considerable hiatus working in a variety of known and unknown bands, Nicky formed The Truth in 1993, with Michael Caruana (keyboards), Tony Kopa (vocals) and Geoff Wells (guitars). The Truth released a self-titled album in 1995, and in 1997 added a bass player Mick Girasole for the release of a second album, *Headspace* with the band re-branded as Truth. Truth broke up in late 1997.

In 1998, he formed a new band, Banana Oil, with Tim Neal (keyboards), Andy Baylor (guitar) and David Williamson (saxophone), releasing an album, *Guavo Lampo*.

In 1999, he formed Bomba with Paul Coyle (trumpet, trombone), Dorian West (bass), Pete Mitchell (saxophone, guitar), George Servanis (drums) and his brother Michael (keyboards). Bomba has released four albums.

In 2000, Bomba together with Joe Camilleri set up Transmitter Records.

In 2003, he joined John Butler, together with Shannon Birchall as part of the John Butler Trio to record the group's 2004 album, *Sunrise Over Sea*. After recording the album he re-joined his band, Bomba.

The year 2006 saw Bomba and Camilleri release *Limestone*, an album of covers and original music.

He recorded an album of Maltese songs, *Nicol Caruana*, in 2007 with his 70 year old father, Nicol Caruana. This was followed in 2008 by his first solo release an EP, *Jah In the Moment*, which he then toured with a trio around Australia. In 2009 he released, *Planet Juice*, his first solo album, on which he played drums, guitar, ukele and marimba.

In 2009, he re-joined the John Butler Trio with Byron Luiters on bass, recording the group's fifth studio album, *April Uprising*. In 2010 Bomba toured with the John Butler Trio, promoting the album.

On August 31, 2013, it was announced by John Butler that Nicky Bomba (drums and percussion) will be leaving John Butler Trio.



'Trumpets shall Sound' fiż-Żebbuġ

Nhar il-Ħadd 13 ta' Awwissu 2017 fil-Knisja Arċipretali taż-Żebbuġ sar kunċert mużikali li fih ħadu sehem Jason Camilleri (Nadur) trumpet, Helge Haukas (Norveġja) trumpet u Franco Cefai (Żebbuġ) orgni. Huma daqqew bejniethom diversi biċċiet ta' kompożituri magħrufa fosthom Henry Purcell u George Frederick Handel kif ukoll xi kompożizzjonijiet taż-żagħżuġħ Franco Cefai li huwa l-Assistent Surmast tal-Banda Santa Marija u l-Maestro di Cappella tal-Knisja Parrokkjali taż-Żebbuġ raħal twelidu. Fi tmiem il-kunċert l-Arċipret taż-Żebbuġ ippreżenta rigal ta' tifikira lil Helge Haukas li huwa Professur tal-mużika fin-

Norveġja.

L-għada t-Tnejn, lejliet il-festa tal-Assunta fl-istess Knisja ittella' kunċert korali fl-okkażjoni tal-20 Anniversarju mit-twaqqif tal-Kor Parrokkjali 'Regina Angelorum' taħt id-direzzjoni tas-Sinjura Maria Cefai akkompagnata fuq l-orgni minn Mro Franco Cefai. Flimkien mal-kor ħa sehem ukoll il-Kor tal-adulti 'Santa Maria', is-sopran Jacqueline Vella u Jacob Portelli fuq l-Arpa li kien hu li fetaħ is-serata billi daqq 'Glenlivet – Traditional Scottish'. Il-kor għadda biex kanta diversi siltiet ta' kompożituri magħrufa fosthom John Rutter, Giulio Caccini, Karl Jenkins u xi kompożizzjonijiet tal-organista Franco Cefai fosthom l-Innu l-ġdid 'L-isbaħ

Gawhra ta' Raħalna', versi ta' Fr. Geoffrey George Attard li sa jtkanta mal-banda fil-ħruġ tal-Purċissjoni tal-Assunta fiż-Żebbuġ nhar il-Ħadd 20 ta' Awwissu filgħaxija. Inqat ukoll il-poeżija tal-Kav Joe M Attard li nkitbet għall-okkażjoni. Attendew għadd sabiħ ta' parruċċani u lejun tmiem is-serata, id-direttriċi tal-Kor, is-sinjura Maria Cefai ippreżentat ritratt tal-Kor lill-Arċipriet il-Kan d. Reuben Micallef bħala tifikira tal-20 sena mit-twelid tal-Kor parrokkjali 'Regina Angelorum'. **KAV. JOE M ATTARD - GHAWDEX**



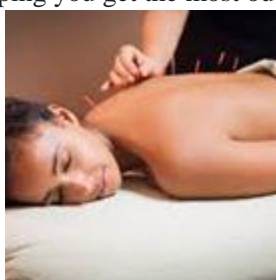
Body Mind Wellness Physiocare

Western Specialist Centre, 63 Cudmore Terrace
Henley Beach, South Australia, Australia, SA 5022

Director: Marika Tel: (08) 8353 6233

Member of the Australian Physiotherapy Association

With the launch of our national "choose physio" campaign it seemed fitting to introduce my new physiotherapy practice, **Body Mind Wellness Physiocare**. Body Mind Wellness Physiocare embodies a holistic approach, preventative physiotherapy and a passion for physiotherapy care. Helping you get the most out of life is what we're about..



Physiotherapy - 30 minutes • Price varies Hands On Physiotherapy, Trigger Point Therapy, Muscle-Energy Techniques, Spinal Mobilisation/Manipulation, Exercise Therapy.

Clinical Matwork - Pilates 1 hours • Price varies - Individual & Group Matwork Classes with an Accredited Pilates Physio/Instructor (Polestar) using the Pilates Method and Props.

Acupuncture - 30 minutes • Price varies - APA Accredited Acupuncture Physiotherapist using Traditional Chinese Medicine Principles, Japanese Needling, Cupping and Dry Needling.

Individualised Self-Care - Self-Care Techniques - 30 minutes • Price varies

Strategies, Lifestyle/Postural/Ergonomic Advice, Self-Treatment using Props, Mindset Shift to achieve long-term Body and Mind Wellness.

Cultural and Educational Agreement signed between Malta and Italy



A Cultural and Educational Agreement has been signed between Malta and Italy. Based on the cultural collaboration agreement signed in 1967, it identifies cultural and educational activities and cooperation opportunities for the 2017-2019 period.

The Government said that this is the 15th agreement signed and aims to increase understanding between both countries' communities, building on the economic foundations and diplomatic relations that already exist between Malta and Italy. Permanent Secretary at the

Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion Fiona Formosa, signed on behalf of the Maltese Government. Italian Ambassador Umberto de Vito signed on behalf of the Italian Government. Areas of cooperation indicated in the agreement include music, publications, art restoration, preservation and management of national heritage, translations, archives and libraries, the promotion and dissemination of the Italian language and culture in Malta, scholarship opportunities, plus more collaboration in the film and television sector.

There will be attention given to the direct collaboration between the universities and institutes for higher education of both countries, the Ministry said. Especially through the exchange of teachers and the implementation of joint research projects, particularly in the field of science.

Photograph: John Pisani – MFTP

Gozo's oldest surviving windmill at Xewkija gozonews.com



The unique Xewkija windmill, which is the oldest surviving windmill in Gozo will be given a much needed facelift after the Planning Commission approved restoration works on this historic building.

The windmill was commissioned by Grand Master Perellos in the beginning of the 18th century, it is the only windmill that has the tower based on an octagonal base.

The project will include the creation of a small piazza area around the Grade 1 scheduled building, therefore improving the viewing experience and accessibility of the

Xewkija Windmill,. New public convenience facilities will also be constructed adjacent to the windmill, the PA said.

The windmill's mechanism will be reconstructed and conservation works will include the removal of metallic inserts and cement renders, the replacement of the windmill's concrete roof with traditional stone slabs and the cleaning of the stone.

The Planning Authority said that the works will be carried out in accordance with an approved restoration method statement and monitored by the Authority's conservation officers. The restoration method statement has been endorsed by the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage, the PA said.

The windmill consists of a large entrance hall, two large parallel rooms, and a kitchen at the back and started operating in 1710 by miller Ganni Scicluna. In the middle there is the garigor leading up to the roof of the tower. Above the entrance hall is a birth room. The windmill, in 1956, served as the first location of the Xewkija Band Club. It was used by the band club's committee until 1965. Since then the windmill has remained empty and unused.

Xaghra Association of NSW Inc Upcoming Events

Celebrating Tal-Vitorja (Nativity of Our Lady) Sunday 10 September 2017

At St Mary's Cathedral Sydney,

Bus departing Riverstone: 11:00am, Blacktown 11:30, Greystanes: 11:40 am

Recital of rosary 2:30 pm, Celebration of Mass 3:00 pm,

homily: Fr Charles Sultana Afterwards Dinner at club

Annual Tal-Vitorja Dinner Dance Saturday, 16 September 2017

Balmoral Function Centre, Balmoral Rd, BLACKTOWN

ROC-A- TAC & Giuseppe Verdi Brass Band

5 Course Meal, beer, wine & soft drinks

Guest of Honour - Fr Charles Sultana (St. Lawrence Parish Priest)

Outing with Fr Charles Sultana to the Entrance Tuesday, 19 September 2017

Riverstone: 7:00am from St John's Church Mc Collough Street

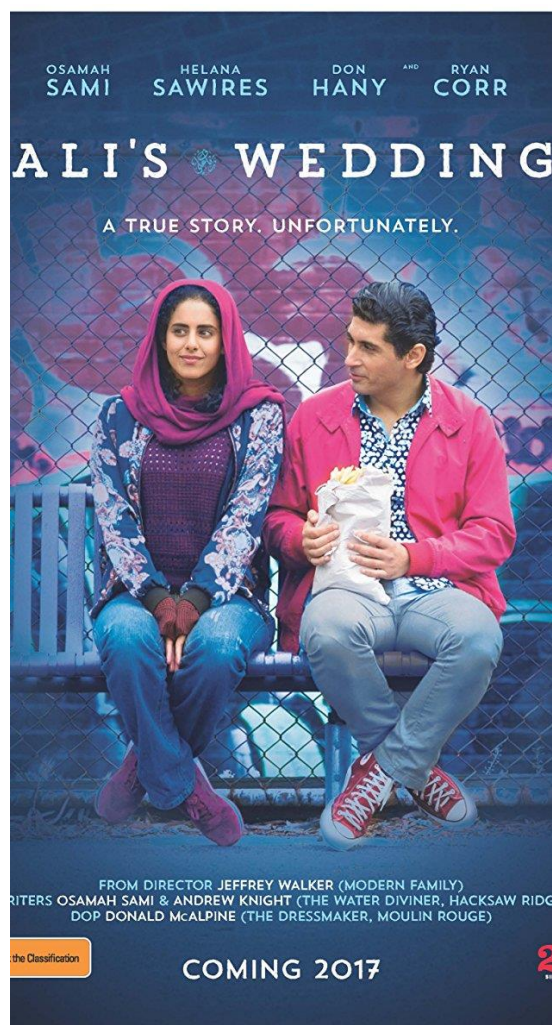
Blacktown: 7:30am from Bus stop near Blacktown Workers

Greystanes: 8:00am from Bus stop opposite Greystanes church

Stop: Morning tea (provided) Lunch: At Club

Contact: Ray/Josephine Bigeni: 9627 4182, 0439 974 182, 0448 100 034 or

M. Anne Teuma: 4579 6771



Ali's Wedding 18+

DIRECTOR **Jeffrey Walker**

Australia | 115 mins. In cinemas: 31 August 2017

Arabic, English, Farsi with English subtitles

A true story. Unfortunately.

After a "white lie" which spirals out of control, a neurotic, naive and musically gifted Muslim cleric's eldest son must follow through with an arranged marriage, except he is madly in love with an Australian born-Lebanese girl.

Meet Ali, the charming son of a Muslim cleric who despite the best of intentions, just can't seem to make the right life choices.

Ali dreams big – he wants to be with the girl he loves, but he's been promised to another girl at his father's mosque. He wants to be the great doctor that the community expects him to be, but he doesn't get enough marks. And above all he wants to make his father proud. Really proud.

So what will Ali do to live up to the impossible expectations? Fake it. Because as the son of the cleric, he doesn't have a choice.

It's one bad decision after another as Ali's wayward quest to please his father and his God spirals out of control, with cataclysmic consequences.

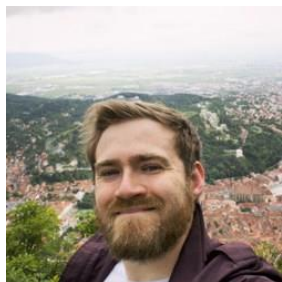
Ali's Wedding is an affectionate and poignant story about family, duty and love in multi-cultural Australia. Depicting the lives of a Muslim family in Melbourne with authenticity and warmth, it finds the common bonds of all families: parents who want the best for their children and children who are trying to work out their place in the world.

DIRECTOR Jeffrey Walker | PRODUCER Sheila Jayadev, Helen Panckhurst | SCREENWRITER Andrew Knight, Osamah Sami | CAST Osamah Sami, Don Hany, Helana Sawires, Frances Duca | OTHER KEY CREW Don McAlpine (Director of Photography), Geoffrey Lamb (Editor), Nigel Westlake (Composer), Tom Heuzenroeder (Sound Designer), Paul Heath (Production Designer), Anna Borghesi (Costume Designer), Allison Meadows, Mullinars Consultants (Casting), Ian Kirk, Tony Ayres, Michael McMahon, Greg Sitch, Nina Stevenson (Executive Producers). Source: <https://adelaidefilmfestival.org/sessions/15533>

Frances Duca is Maltese and have been living in Sydney for the past 14 years. Prior to that she lived in London and Berlin. Frances plays the main supporting role as Zahra, Ali's mum. You may read one of the reviews here:

<http://www.sparklyprettybriiiight.com/movie-review-alis-wedding/>





Tales, Legends and Folklore of Malta

by DAVID <http://www.travelsewhere.net/folklore-of-malta/>

Before I start sharing posts on all the different destinations you can visit on the islands of **Malta**, I thought I'd first pass on some tales and legends that I came across during my month exploring Malta. Sitting at a crossroads in the Mediterranean, Malta lies both between Italy and Africa, but also the Middle East and the Atlantic. This means, the island has often featured among other cultures' stories. Aside from that, there's also plenty of local folklore of Malta regarding its history and people. During my time on Malta, these are just a few of the stories and tales of local folklore that I learned about.

Isle of Calypso - One of the greater tales of Greek Mythology is Homer's **Odyssey**. The story follows the long journey of the hero Odysseus and includes his troubles with the nymph **Calypso** on her island of **Ogygia**. Calypso lived in a cave on the island and fell in love with the hero, bewitching him so as to keep him on the island eternally. For seven years Odysseus stayed with Calypso under her enchantment. It wasn't until the intervention of the gods that Odysseus was released from her spell and allowed to return home to his wife in Ithaca.

What makes this tale relevant to Malta is that it is widely believed that the island of Ogygia and the Maltese island of **Gozo** are one and the same. Since the 4th century BC, it has been suggested that Gozo is indeed the Isle of Calypso. Further reinforcing the idea is the presence of a cave by Ramla Bay on the island's north. Since it is believed that this cave is where Calypso is said to have lived, it is now known as Calypso's Cave. The cave is in fact a series of caverns and according to legend leads right down to the sea. The cave just recently had a small collapse and is not currently visible from its regular viewing platform.

When you visit Gozo, it becomes easy to understand how a legend arose about the island having a magical hold on you. Gozo is full of enchanting places and the vibrant red sand of Ramla Beach by Calypso's Cave is a wonderful example.

The Megalithic Giantess - Scattered throughout the islands of Malta are stone structures that date all the way back to the 3600-2500 BC. These 5000 year old structures are historically known as **megalithic**, due to the large stones used to construct them. Thanks to their age, these millennia old temples are recognised as UNESCO World Heritage Sites and interwoven into the local folklore of Malta.

According to local legend the ruins were remains of temples built by giants who once resided there. One such place with several ruins is the area known as **Ggantija** or the *Giant's Tower* in English, in the heart of Gozo. This large temple complex still stands to this day and are the earliest of all the megalithic temples in Malta.

One legend from Ggantija tells of a giantess who was seen carrying boulders overhead in order to build many of the stone structures found throughout the area. It was said that she only ate broad beans and honey and built the places of worship all the while carrying a child too.

Shipwreck of St. Paul - The country of Malta has a deep relationship with Christianity, which according to legend had quite the fantastic start. It is said that Christianity came to Malta with the shipwreck of the **Apostle Paul** on a small island just off its coast in 60 AD. As told in the *Acts of the Apostles*, Paul was en route to Rome as a political prisoner when the ship he was on got caught in a vicious storm. Its passengers were shipwrecked and washed ashore on an island that's now known as **St Paul's Island**. The island lies just across the bay from the town of Bugibba on the northern coast of Malta.

The tale says that once on Malta, the passengers were met and welcomed by the locals under Roman rule. Invited to a fire, Paul was suddenly bitten by a poisonous snake but miraculously didn't fall ill. The people saw this as a sign that Paul was indeed an exceptional man. Paul would end up staying on Malta the entire winter and began the spread of Christianity on the island when he healed the Roman Chief's father from a fever. It is said that very chief named **Publius** would become the island's first bishop. Malta would become one of the first Roman colonies to convert, so quite an auspicious start indeed.

Wignacourt Arch – Fleur-de-Lys Gate



from Wikipedia by Vendriž CC BY-SA 4.0

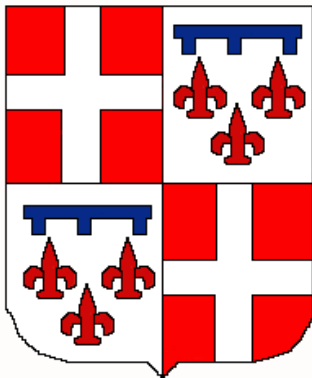
Photo: George Brimmer – Victoria, Australia

The Wignacourt Arch known as the Fleur-De-Lys Gate is an ornamental arch located on the boundary between Fleur-de-Lys (a suburb of Birkirkara) and Santa Venera, Malta. The arch was originally built in 1615 as part of the Wignacourt Aqueduct, but it was destroyed between 1943 and 1944. A replica of the arch was constructed in 2015 and inaugurated on 28 April 2016.

The Wignacourt Aqueduct was constructed between 1610 and 1615 to carry water from

springs in Dingli and Rabat to the Maltese capital Valletta. It was named after Alof de Wignacourt, the Grand Master of the Order of St. John, who partially financed its construction.

The aqueduct was carried through underground pipes or over a series of stone arches where there were depressions in the ground level. To commemorate the construction of the aqueduct, the Wignacourt Arch was constructed at an area where the aqueduct crossed the road leading from Valletta to Mdina. The Baroque archway had a large arch in the centre, and a smaller arch on either side. It was decorated with three fleurs-de-lis, a relief of Wignacourt's coat of arms, and two marble plaques with Latin inscriptions. The plaque on the side facing Santa Venera reads:



*Grandmaster Wignacourt's
Coat of Arms*

The plaque on the side facing Birkirkara reads: - The area around the arch remained rural until the early 20th century. A tram used to pass near the arch between 1905 and 1929. After World War II, the suburb of Fleur-de-Lys developed in the area, and it got its name from the heraldic symbols on the arch.

Destruction - On 18 April 1943, a Royal Air Force breakdown lorry heading to the airfield at Ta' Qali at night with no street light hit the arch and severely damaged its Santa Venera-facing façade. The central arch was dismantled by military personnel under the supervision of the Public Works Department about two months later. The arch was completely destroyed on 12 February 1944, when a Royal Army Service Corps truck hit the remaining parts of the structure. The stone remains were supposedly stored by the British but, similar to several other historic relics, they were never retrieved by the Maltese and the whereabouts are unknown. However, the arch's two marble plaques were repossessed.

A roundabout with a fountain was later built on the site of the arch. Some arches of the aqueduct were demolished in order to widen the road and make way for this roundabout. The surviving arches of the Wignacourt Aqueduct were restored between 2004 and 2005. The chairman of the Bank of Valletta, whose headquarters is located close to the arch, promised to build a replica of the arch but initially nothing materialized.

In 2012, the Fleur-de-Lys Administrative Committee and the Birkirkara Local Council announced that they were planning to rebuild the arch to the same dimensions of the original. The police force had initially objected to the project, believing it could become a traffic hazard, but of similar risk comparisons to other monumental arches and gates in Malta, such as the Portes de Bombes. The plans were eventually approved by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority in October of the same year, but they were placed on hold since a tender appeal had to be sorted out. In April 2013, the tender was awarded to Vaults Ltd instead of V&C Contractors who had originally won the tender. The replica arch cost €280,000 to build, and €100,000 of these were donated by the Bank of Valletta. €40,000 were taken from the Good Causes Fund, while the remaining €140,000 were paid by the Birkirkara Local

Council.

While preparations were being made for rebuilding the arch, a dispute arose between the Birkirkara and Santa Venera Local Councils on what to call the arch. The former said that it should be called *Fleur-de-Lys Gate*, while the latter insisted on using the name *Wignacourt Arch*. In September 2013, the Santa Venera council took the Birkirkara council to court and accused it of causing "historical damage" by calling the arch with an incorrect name. The councils agreed on using the name *The Wignacourt Arch known as the Fleur-de-Lys Gate* in August 2014.

Reconstruction of the arch began on 1 August 2014, but work stopped soon afterwards after part of the original arch's foundations was found. Reconstruction continued in January 2015, and it was complete by the end of November 2015. Some finishing touches were made in February 2016, including the installation of two marble plaques. The arch was inaugurated on 28 April 2016 by Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and mayor of Birkirkara Joanne Debono Grech. A plaque with the coat of arms of Birkirkara and the following inscription was installed to commemorate the reconstruction:

In 2015, the Central Bank of Malta minted a €10 silver coin, and MaltaPost issued a set of two stamps to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Wignacourt Aqueduct. The Wignacourt Arch is

depicted on the coin and one of the stamps.

<http://malta-canada.blogspot.com.au/>

www.johnscerri.com

JOHN SCERRI from CANADA writes - I appreciate seeing my own work on your Maltese Newsletter issue #181 Page 21. I am referring to the excerpt from my blog and the picture of my painting of the Wignacourt Aqueduct archway. [Thanks John for your most wonderful blog. Please visit it – The Editor]

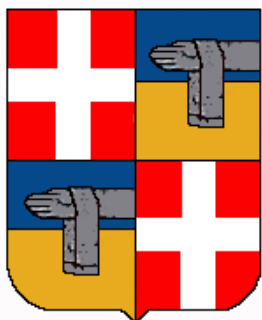


Stamps, plaque and coin commemorating the Wignacourt Arch at Fleur-de-lys



Grand Master Philippe Villiers de L'Isle Adam

Philippe Villiers de L'Isle Adam of the langue of France was elected in Rhodes on 13th November 1521.



Grand Master L'Isle Adam and his knights sailed into the Grand Harbour at Malta in the morning of the 26 October 1530 on the carrack St. Anne, to take possession of their new home. On the 13 November he renewed the oath "*to observe the privileges and usages*" granted by the King of Aragon and Sicily and took formal possession of Malta in Mdina, a medieval town which was the capital city, at a pompous ceremony where the Silver key to the city was surrendered to him by the Captain of the Rod



Instead of making Mdina their headquarters, the Knights preferred to establish themselves in Birgu, a small village in the entrance of the harbour, where they had their galleys at hand, in the shadow of Fort St. Angelo. As Birgu lacked the facilities required, they constructed bastions to fortify it against any assault and in the narrow streets they began to build their Auberges, one for each Langue - the construction work creating opportunities for the Maltese people. Where more convenient, they leased premises for this purpose. Each Langue began to bring in its men-at-arms, serving brothers, clerics, artificers, sea-captains, seamen and military engineers. A palace was also constructed which served the knights until the time of La Valette. They set up their infirmary in a private house until 1533, when they built an ad hoc hospital. This building today houses cloister nuns.

The memories of Rhodes still troubled L'Isle Adam as although he should have been pleased with the transfer of the Order to Malta and the way things seemed to be working successfully, he may have been hoping that he would one day recapture his former home. The Order's first coinage - the Scudo, Tari, Carlino and the Grano were struck in this period. The defenses of Fort St. Angelo, a stronghold that still dominates Grand Harbour to this day, were enlarged and the Grand Master established himself in the fort. An existing Chapel inside the fort was enlarged and dedicated to St. Anne.

L'Isle Adam set up a sound administration, dividing Malta into two parts: one comprising the city of Notabile (Mdina), and the parishes of Naxxar, Birkirkara, Siggiewi and Zebbug - placed under the Capitano della Verga or Captain of the City; the other including Birgu, the parishes of Zejtun, Zurrieq, Qormi, Gudja and the adjoining districts.

DO YOU REMEMBER THESE NURSERY RHYMES?

Dawra Durella

Dawra durella
Qasba žigarella
Čoff tal-bellus
Čačqaħielu lill-għarus

Axxa! Axxa!

Għax missieru għamel kaxxa.

(jew: Missieru mastrudaxxa / Ma' rasu għandu faxxa / Issa kulhadd jitbaxxa)



Pizzi Pizzi Kanna

Pizzi pizzi kanna,
Dolores ta' Sant'Anna;
Sant'Anna tal-Morina
Habba bičča pellegrina.
Mgħaref tal-fidda,
Bandiera tal-ħarir.
Noli kannoli,
Insara qaddisin.





Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ was established in February 2011 to promote the interests of young people and to provide assistance to youth organisations and young people in achieving their potential.

The aim in establishing Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ is to mainstream youth related issues and further develop youth services. It enables further investment in young people and helps them realise their potential.

Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ's overall objective is to provide a coherent, cohesive and unified Government approach to addressing the needs and aspirations of young people and to realise the following benefits:

- For Young people:
 - More actions within existing policies for young people. Greater participation, empowerment and dialogue for young people.
- For Policymaking and Policy makers:
 - Change in attitudes and work culture to include a youth perspective
 - Greater coherence in policymaking
 - Better data and information on youth issues

The Mission of Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ is to:

Manage and implement the National Youth Policy to promote and safeguard the interests of young people which it pursues through the following policy measures.

Youth Activity Centres at Villa Psaiġon and at Marsaxlokk.

The first Youth Cafes in Malta at Qawra, Msida, Cottonera and Kirkop.

The first Youth Hubs in Malta at St.Venera, MCAST, GCHSS and Junior College

The Youth Information One Stop Shop in Santa Venera

Awareness raising, listening to young people and promoting the role of Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ at locally and at European level

An interactive web portal Youth Information Malta and online support services *Kellimni.Com*.

At European level, the agency engages on an on-going basis with the Youth Working Party, Youth Minister's Councils, the European Commission, EU Presidencies, the Council of Europe, and other European bodies such as SALTO, ERYICA and EuroMed on youth related issues.

The agency manages and oversees the EU's Structured Dialogue process with young people and the European Youth Card.

Programmes and initiatives for the active engagement and participation of young people

Training and support is provided for young people through projects that will enhance their skills and competencies and empower them as both responsible individuals and active citizens in their communities. Projects include, inter alia: empowerment, civic engagement, music, volunteering, contemporary arts, specialized study support and drama.

Research - Research is essential within the youth field and that is why Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ recognizes the importance of investing in this area. In fact, the Research Unit is one of the main pillars within which Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ operates. This unit administers all research that the agency undertakes itself or commissions to other entities. Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ's research targets and focuses on the main areas concerning young people, mainly education, employment, environment, rights and responsibility, health and well-being, justice etc. The outcome of such research is then utilized by the Empowerment Unit within the same agency to design the programmes that Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ implements with young people.

Policy development and mainstreaming - In addition to developing and implementing youth policy, Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ also participates on relevant committees and working groups with the aim of promoting and supporting a cross-sectoral approach to issues that impact on the lives of young people. <http://www.agenziazghazagh.gov.mt>



SBS Radio brings listeners an enhanced mobile app experience

As one of the world's most multilingual broadcasters, SBS Radio is now more accessible than ever. Offering listeners an enriched experience, SBS Radio's new mobile app features 70 language programs and four 24/7 digital radio stations: SBS Arabic24, SBS PopAsia, SBS PopDesi and SBS Chill. The new SBS Radio app is available to download now at the [iTunes App Store](#) and [Google Play](#), to listen anytime, anywhere for free.

The updated design puts on demand content at the forefront and the new interface makes the SBS Radio app easy to use to discover live streams, podcasts, music, news and information. Other key features include:

- Checking the language setting in a user's phone and presenting navigation and text in language
- Users can now pick their favourite content and display it in their own tailored playlist
- Switching stations is now easier in the live radio menu
- In-app alerts to notify about new podcast episodes or any favourite content about to expire
- Use the new 'Explore' screen to find any new shows to add to the favourite list
- Set a sleep-timer for automatic switch-off after a period of time or when a program ends

SBS Director of Audio and Language Content, Mandi Wicks said, "SBS Radio recognises that our audiences expect a more on demand content experience, on the device of their choice. With the new and improved functionality, the SBS Radio app caters to our listeners with a personalised experience tailored to their content and language preferences."

Existing users of the SBS PopDesi and SBS Chill app will be directed to download the new SBS Radio app to continue listening to their favourite channels. As a new feature, listeners of SBS PopDesi, SBS Chill and SBS PopAsia can now see a track list played in the past 7 days and purchase them for offline listening.

Tune in to SBS Radio anytime, anywhere. Download the free SBS Radio App available now at the [iTunes App Store](#) and [Google Play](#).

For more information, please contact: Uma Sandeep | M: 0429 212 659 | E: uma.sandeep@sbs.com.au



XAGHRA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.



ABN 83 642 280 043
P.O. Box 2214, Taylors Lakes, VIC 3038
Phone: (03) 9311 7713 – (03) 9390 2744
(03) 93662121 (03) 93671679.



Ix-Xaghra Association of Australia Inc. għanda pjacir
tavza li ser issir Quddiesa gewwa Maltese Cultural
Centre, 27 Talmage Street Albion. Nhar il-Gimgha
8-9-2017 fis-7pm. biex niccelebraw il-festa tal-Vitorja

Wara l-Quddiesa l-Maltese Own Band Philharmonic
Society inc. tagħmel programm ta marci brijuzi.

Il-kumitat tax-Xaghra jistiden lill kullhadd biex jattandi
w jiehu parti għall din il-festa, ta' Marija Bambina l-festa
tal-Vitorja. Narawkom għall Festa.

Is-sibt ikun hemm id-dinner dance tal-festa gewwa Luxor
Function Centre, għad- divertiment ikollna il-group
Tequila Brothers u l- United Brass Band, għall biljetti
cemplu

Tony Bonello fuq 93662121. Charlie Attard fuq
93117713. Charlie Vella fuq 93671679, Maris fuq
03311352 jew il-klabb fuq 93114750.

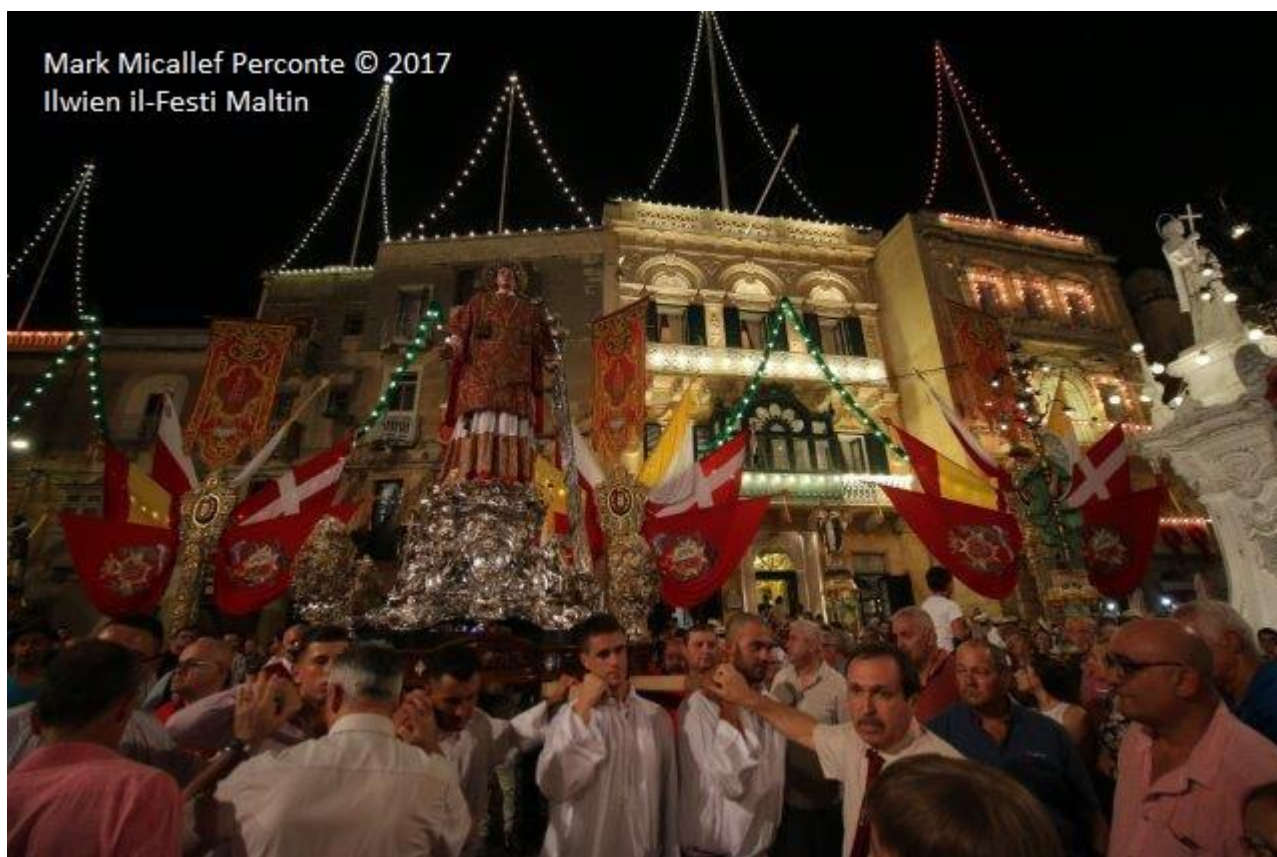
DOWN MEMORY LANE - WW2 1940



The unused railway tunnel in Valletta which provided
shelter and became sleeping quarters during the early
air attacks on the island in World War 2 - 1940



Maltese Home Guard at St. Julian's
World War 2 - 1940



Above – Feast of St. Lawrence at Vittoriosa and below – feast of Santa Marija at Mosta

